

CLAIMS

I CLAIM:

1. In a skin biopsy device having a handle connected to a cutting edge, wherein the improvement comprises:
providing said cutting edge as part of a disposable tip member that is releasably connected to said handle, said cutting edge being constructed of metal.
2. The device of claim 1 wherein said disposable tip member is releasably connected to said handle by a friction joint.
3. The device of claim 1 wherein said disposable tip member has a base and includes cutter walls that have a bottom end connected to said base; and,
said cutter walls extending from said bottom end to said cutting edge.
4. The device of claim 3 wherein said bottom end is embedded into said base.
5. The device of claim 3 wherein said bottom end includes an outwardly extending flange that is connected to said base by a fastening means.
6. The device of claim 3 wherein said disposable tip member has side walls and said bottom end includes a cap structure that overlies said base and a portion of said side walls.
7. The device of claim 1 wherein said base has a base element, and said cutter walls comprise a metal cutting edge part connected to said base element with a joint means.

8. A skin biopsy device comprising:
a handle having a center passage and a discharge end;
a plunger positioned within said passage, said plunger having an actuating end and a contact end; and,
a tip member releasably attached to said discharge end, said tip member including a biopsy chamber having an outermost open end defined by a metal cutting edge, said biopsy chamber including a push rod having a disc end in communication with said open end, and a free end in communication with said plunger contact end.
9. The device of claim 8 wherein said plunger is movable from a first position to a second position whereby said plunger contact end abuts against said push rod free end;
said center passage including a biasing means for maintaining said plunger in said first position.
10. The device of claim 8 wherein said tip member has a base and said biopsy chamber is defined by cutter walls extending from said cutting edge to a bottom end which is connected to said base.
11. The device of claim 10 wherein said cutter walls are constructed of metal.
12. The device of claim 11 wherein said cutting edge is serrated.
13. The device of claim 11 wherein said bottom end is embedded in said base.
14. The device of claim 11 wherein said bottom end is connected to said base with a fastening means.
15. The device of claim 11 wherein said bottom end includes a cap structure that overlies at least said base.

16. The device of claim 8 wherein said tip member has a base element and said biopsy chamber includes a cutting edge part, said base element and said cutting edge part being connected by a joint means.

17. The device of claim 16 wherein said cutting edge part is constructed of metal.

18. The device of claim 16 wherein said joint means is any one of a member, or combination of members, selected from a group consisting of lap, overlap, threaded, miter, dado, mortise and tenon, telescope and rabbet.